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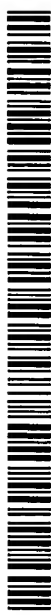


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(54) Title: **MEASUREMENT OF MELANOCORTIN PEPTIDES AND USES THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to melanocortin peptides and to methods that utilise melanocortin peptides, their measurement, their receptors and biological response systems for the risk assessment and diagnosis of disease. The biological response systems are also utilised to screen for compounds that act as agonists or antagonists of melanocortin receptors.